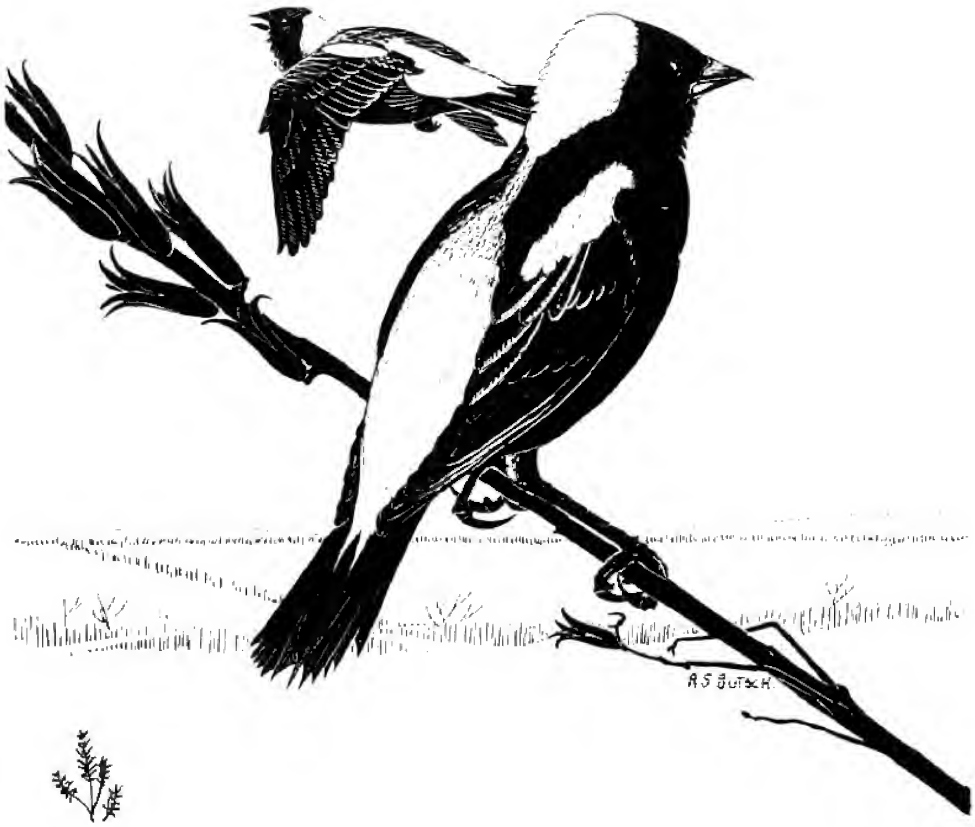
IOWA BIRD LIFE



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Foods and Age Ratios of Hunter Bagged Mourning Doves in Northwest Missouri

RICHARD D. CRAWFORD,
Northeast Missouri State College,
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

This study represents an investigation of 73 Mourning Doves shot during the first two weeks of September, 1969. They were all collected on the Pony Express Lake area near Cameron, Missouri.

Of the major investigations into the foods of the Mourning Dove, **Zenaidura macroura**, in the midwest most report that the predominant early fall foods are foxtail, wheat, and corn. In Missouri Korschgen (1958) reports that yellow foxtail comprised 32 percent of the food, corn 21.4 percent, and wheat 21.2 percent. Hanson (1962) reports that in Illinois wheat comprised 46.40 percent, corn 13.71 percent, yellow foxtail 12.28 percent, and green foxtail 5.55 percent. In contrast McClure (1950) found hemp to be the most important food in southwest Iowa.

Hanson (1962) reports that males were usually more abundant than females in hunter's bags, this ratio being approximately 1½ males per female. He also states that since adult doves may commonly nest as many as six times per season and have a short life span the hunter's bag will usually be predominately immature birds.

METHODS OF THE STUDY:

The Mourning Doves examined were identified according to those methods formulated by Hanson (1962) and Wight (1969). The adult birds were separated from the immatures by the presence of white or buffy tipped primary coverts on the wings. The adult males were told by the decidedly pinker breast and slate colored blue-gray head, and the adult females were recognized by the above characteristics for the male being replaced by buffy brown feathers. The immature birds and hard to distinguish adults were separated mainly by bursal analysis.

The contents of the crops were collected from the doves and were washed by placing them in a close-knit strainer and running water over them. The seeds and other materials were then identified and their volumes measured.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Table 1 gives the food items found in the 73 crops collected. Wheat was the most important food item comprising 44.1 percent of the total volume. Green foxtail was second with 23.6 percent, yellow foxtail third with 20.3 percent, and corn fourth with 5.8 percent. Although wheat ranked first in volume the foxtails may be a more staple food item since together they were found in 72 of the 73 crops.

Table 2 gives the age and sex ration of the 73 birds shot. The data disagrees slightly from Hanson's ratio of approximately 1½ males per female. This variation is probably not significant since the this sample is so small and collected from a single area.

Since doves require a diet high in calcium they often eat land snails to supplement this need (Korschgen, 1958). In this investigation snails were found in about 11 percent of the crops. The grit may also be used to supply calcium, but it is more commonly associated with the grinding of the food for proper digestion. Although the grit ranked fifth in volume it was found in nearly two-thirds of the crops.

Table 1. Food Items Occurring in the Crops of 73 Mourning Doves.

Rank	Food Item	Volume	Frequency in Crops
1	Wheat (**Triticum aestivatum**)	44.1	60
2	Green Foxtail (**Setaria viridis**)	23.6	66
3	Yellow Foxtail (**Setaria luetescens**)	20.3	64
4	Corn (**Zea mays**)	5.8	21
5	Grit	1.4	48
6	Rough Pigweed (**Amaranthus retroflexus**)	.8	18
7	Sweetclover (**Melilotus sp.**)	.6	2
8	Smartweed (**Polygonum sp.**)	.5	4
9	Snails	.5	8
10	Lambsquarter (**Chenopodium album**)	.4	16
11	Ragweed (**Ambrosia artemisiifolia**)	.3	4
12	Witchgrass (**Panicum capillare**)	.2	3
13	Goosegrass (**Eleusine indica**)	.2	4
14	Knotweed (**Polygonum aviculare**)	.2	2
15	Prostrate Spurge (**Euphorbia supina**)	.2	2
16	Field Pennycress (**Thlaspi arvense**)	.1	3
17	Tawny Bromegrass (**Bromus tectorum**)	.1	4
18	Common Chickweed (**Stellaria media**)	.1	1
19	Red Sorrell (**Rumex acetosella**)	Tr.	1
20	Snow-on-the-Mountain (**Euphorbia marginata**)	Tr.	1
21	Prostrate Pigweed (**Amaranthus graecizans**)	Tr.	2
22	Night-flowering Catchfly (**Silene noctiflora**)	Tr.	1

Table 2. Age and Sex Ratios of 73 Immature and Adult Doves.

Immatured			Adult	
Male	Female	Questionable	Male	Female
22	19	3	14	15

Ratio of Immature to Adult Birds 44:29
Ratio of Total Known Males to Females 36:34

The foxtails were found to be the most staple food of the doves studied and is used extensively by other birds as well for food (Trippensee, 1948). It would be wise conservation and management to protect roadsides and fields supporting foxtails. It is indeed an important requirement for many animals.

Although it is generally conceded that Missouri dove populations have declined in recent years, it is encouraging to see that its most staple food (foxtail) is a hardy plant that grows tremendously without man's help. It may be that wheat is a more preferred food than foxtail, but it is not so readily available as foxtail. It is encouraging indeed to find a sport animal that can cope with man's civilization with little help from man himself.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to thank Hollis Dale, Gerald Crawford and Brian Bloskovich for help in collecting the doves; I would also like to thank my wife, Glinda, for untiring patience and inspiration throughout this study.

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Rheas

MARY LOU PETERSEN
235 McClellan Blvd.
DAVENPORT, IOWA

The afternoon was warm but not uncomfortable. The monotonous hum of the VW's engine, as we sped along the blacktop highway, lulled me to sleep. One-half of the back seat was piled with gear and the other half was my domain. By this particular afternoon Peter and I had been in the State of Bahia in Brazil about two and one-half weeks, and we had traversed about 4000 kilometers. The steady hum of the engine and the nearly uniform surface of the highway had not been the rule of thumb for our travel. Many of the 4000 kilometers had been over first class roads, which means hard packed dirt with ruts and a top speed of twenty-five kilometers per hour.

The morning had provided our last chance to bird in virgin rain forest and we had had a fantastically good look at a Frilled Coquette. We had also picked up the Redish-bellied Parakeet, the Golden-green Woodpecker and the Crested Oropendola. Surely we couldn't be too unhappy even if we had no more chances for trogons and Bellbirds.

As the wonderous but not always totally dependable bug wound its way through the hills, we left behind the disappointingly scant remains of southern Bahian coastal rain forest. It has been mercilessly cut over and burned off by "progress'. We entered the drier highlands where tall forage grasses supported herds of cattle. Our destination was Vitoria da Conquista and our last chance to see emas, better known in the United States as Rheas.

We had spent two days in the northern part of the state in the vast, dry catinga area futally searching for the elusive Rhea. Our entire two and one-half weeks up to that afternoon had provided us with many new species to add to our lifelists. We had fantastically good luck with hawks, rails and hummingbirds. But, it was the Rhea that Peter and I longed to see. This bird was the one we had particularly wanted to see in Brazil.

My hopes for an ema sighting had dropped pretty low and after the morning's arduous hike, sleep was much more compelling. As I nodded, the VW climbed into the dry highlands, the grass became sparse and the air grew cool. I awoke and slipped my sweatshirt on, because bare arms were no longer comfortable. We were on a high plateau and in ten or so kilometers we would reach Vitoria da Conquista.

Suddenly Dennis hit the breaks and yelled, "Ema!"

The car became a flurry of activity. Dennis slowed down and drew off the road, closer and closer to three big beauties. I was desperately getting the telephoto out of the gear and Peter readied the camera to accept Big Bertha (the telephoto). We stopped, Peter lowered the window for the camera, we dared not get out of the car for fear of alarming the family group.

They grazed completely unaware of the humans in the cream-colored machine. The large male lifted his head. He was at least as tall as me and I'm slightly over five feet! His large, dark, clear eyes scaned the horizon, sweeping over us and then satisfied that there was no danger, he continued grazing. There were two more Rheas, probably a female and a young one. The camera was snapping as it recorded the scene permanently on film. I gazed out the window as intently as I could, etching the scene in my memory, for here were Rheas and I had come 6000 miles with hopes to see one. The bird is not colorful, mostly grey with some black. Its feathers appear soft, probably due to the lack of flight feathers. Yet, it is an awesome bird; tall and powerful, intelligent and benign. And, unfortunately, as with so many other unique creatures on this earth, this species is endangered. The majesty, grace, the wonder of these fantastic, flightless fowl held us spellbound in the waning afternoon sunlight. Slowly they grazed farther and farther from the car and we continued on to Vitoria.

Present Status of the Say's Phoebe in Plymouth County

ELDON BRYANT
R. R. 1
AKRON, IOWA

Nine years have elapsed since my son Curtis and I first identified Say's Phoebe as a resident of Plymouth County, Iowa. Because of changes in their numbers it is time to make another report of my observations of this interesting species which appeared to be extending its territory eastward.

During the several years following the 1960 discovery I made an intensive

search of this county and southern Sioux County and found Say's nesting in twenty-one locations. This convinced me that they may have been here for some time and were possibly present but unobserved in other Iowa areas. in the spring of 1968 Bob Nickolsen and I searched for a day in Woodbury County but found not one Say's.

I found Say's nesting largely under small wooden bridges over creeks with little water. Three times nests were located on beams or projections under cement bridges. I found nests under the eaves of porches of two old houses and in one barn they nested in Barn Swallow nests several times. A nest was made in a small portable hog shelter in a field but was not successful.

Spring of 1967 brought unusually warm weather for a time in February and early March followed by a severe cold spell. That year I found Say's Phoebe's had returned to about only half of the nesting locations used regularly in previous years. I assumed that this early migrating flycatcher moved too far north during the mild spell and many were destroyed in the following cold spell. The population dropped steadily in 1968 and 1969. I located Say's nesting in only three places in 1969. I was not able to check these nests as regularly as I would have like butdo not believe any young were raised.

One possible cause for the decline might be that the county supervisors have been repairing the old bridges and replacing many with large steel culverts or cement structures offering no place for nests. The new wood bridges are made with heavily creosoted lumber which seems offensive to all birds except barn pigeons. I imagine a number of years weathering will alleviate this problem. This cannot be the complete answer as several bridges that were used for years have been abaondoned. These bridges were not repaired. Abandoned farm buildings and cement bridges with suitable beams are plentiful so I do not belive lack of possible nesting sites is the answer.

The Say's Phoebe is normally a resident of the drier Western States. The last three years have been colder and have heavier than normal rainfall. I believe that this damper, colder weather has not been favorable to this species. The frequently flooded small creeks have certainly been a real problem for the birds nesting under bridges. These floods cause whirlpools under the bridges causing deep pools to be formed which are death traps to young birds making their first flight. If frightened this first flight is often taken before the young Phoebes are really strong enough.

At this time this fine species has about disappeared in Plymouth County. I hope they do not go entirely.

Summary of an Eight Year Survey of Bluebird Nesting Boxes in Eastern Iowa

PETER PETERSEN JR.
235 McClellan Blvd.
DAVENPORT, IOWA

In the seven years since the note of Yeast (**Iowa Bird Life** Vol. 32 p. 51-52), the survey of nesting boxes in the southeastern corner of Muscatine Co., Iowa has been continued. The number of usable boxes has fluxuated as follows: 1962, 36; 1963, 39; 1964, 35; 1965, 29; 1966, 30; 1967, 23; 1968, 25; and 1969, 24. These boxes were con-

structed by and are maintained by the Tri-City Bird Club, especially Mr. and Mrs. Don Price of Bettendorf. Vandalism has been responsible for most of the reduction in the number of usable boxes.

Three species have utilized these boxes: House Wren, Eastern Bluebird and House Sparrow. Every effort was made to discourage use by House Sparrows--females, young and eggs were destroyed as well as nest material being removed and scattered. In some instances House Wrens or Eastern Bluebirds used the boxes from which sparrows were evicted. Primary aim of this study has been the Eastern Bluebird. The houses are built specifically for bluebirds and most of the house placements are made with them in mind. House Wrens were tolerated, but in some years the checks were not continued late enough in the summer to provide complete results of their nesting efforts. In 1967 and 1969 it is also possible that late bluebird nests were missed due to early termination of box checks.

Use of individual boxes by Eastern Bluebirds varied from 44 percent in 1962 to 17 percent in 1965. The major reason for this fluxuation was predation on a particular section of the route. The primary predator appeared to be the Raccoon, with the Bull Snake, House Wren, House Sparrow and Man also being positively identified. The data presented in Chart I gives the total number of bluebird eggs laid and young apparently fledged. Banding was done at age five to seven days if possible, but after banding the boxes were not checked for several weeks so the number shown as fledged could be higher than the actual number. In addition to the early termination of box checks in 1967 the high rainfall may have cut the nesting attempts.

When the box checks are made late in the day it is often possible to capture female bluebirds in the boxes. No desertion has resulted from this practice. A total of seventeen females have been captured in this manner with only one banded bird being recaught. This bird was nesting about one mile southeast of its birthplace the next year. It was incubating white eggs in a box that had not been used the previous year. It probably raised its first brood across the road in a box which had been used the previous year. It is not known if this bird was hatched from white eggs as it was banded on the first check of the season when it was a nestling. In the eight years a total of 426 nestlings have been banded with none being recaptured away from the area of banding.

Box color did not appear to influence the selection of the box by bluebirds. Of the twenty-four boxes available for the 1969 breeding season, nineteen were green and five brown. Four of the five brown boxes and twelve of the nineteen green boxes were used by bluebirds. Location is of much greater importance in the author's experience. Probably the key factor is avoiding the close proximity of a farm to avoid the House Sparrow usage. The best locations were always within about fifty to one hundred yards of a wooded area. It need not be a heavy woods, in fact a pasture with brushy clumps and a few trees would be most ideal.

On two occasions Black-capped Chickadees began to nest, but neither was successful. Wrens often used a box after one brood of bluebirds fledged. The bluebirds usually raised two broods, the first in May and the second in late June. Several times three broods of bluebirds were raised. Second and third clutches tended to be smaller than the first clutch which was nearly always five, rarely six.

The House Wren data, while admittedly incomplete, is given in Table I. It can readily be seen that the wrens fluxuate much more than the bluebirds from year to year.

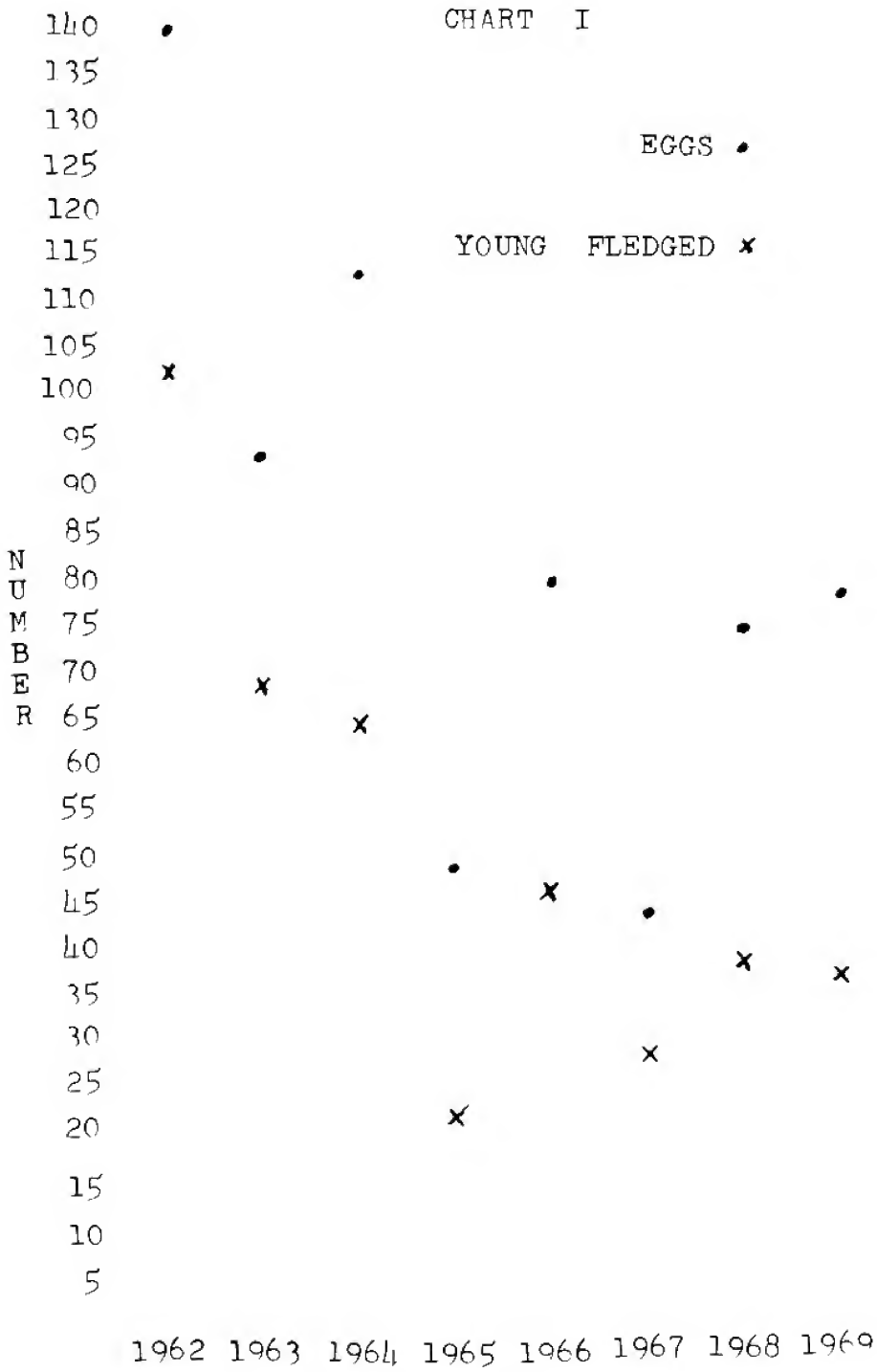
CHART I
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1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969

TABLE I

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
House Wren eggs	74	96	87	105	62	11	24	20
House Wren young fledged	17	43	41	11	14	7	23	2
Successful boxes	8	8	9	3	5	1	4	1

To summarize, from twenty-three to thirty-nine bluebird type boxes in the southeast corner of Muscatine Co., on the bluff over the Mississippi were checked at about ten day intervals during the breeding seasons from 1962-1969. Over half of the boxes were used by these birds nearly every season, but only seventeen to forty-four percent of the boxes produced fledglings. After the bluebirds had raised a brood many of the boxes were used by House Wrens. Although seventeen female bluebirds were caught on the nest only one was a bird banded as a nestling.

1969 Turkey Vulture Observations at Red Rock Refuge

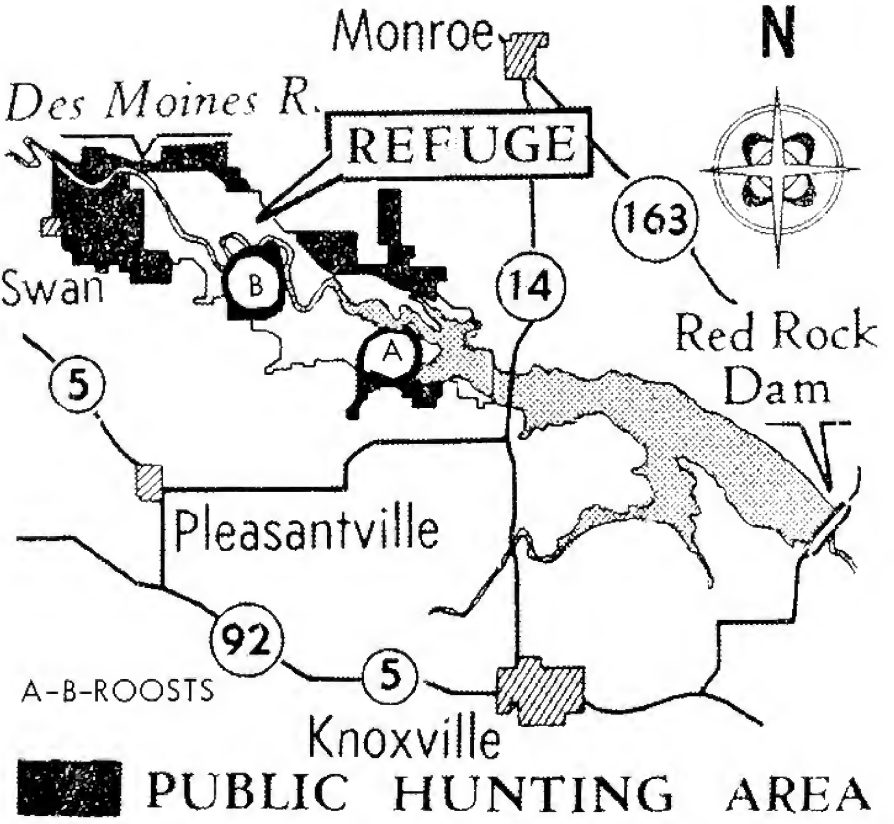
GLADYS B. BLACK
608 De Witt
PLEASANTVILLE, IOWA

This year I began the Vulture count early on August 14, acting on advice of Professor Pershing B. Hofslund of Duluth. Dr. James Baird of Massachusetts Audubon Society had written suggesting that my 1968 figures (**Iowa Bird Life** 39:27-29) represented a "roost" and not daily migration numbers as I had assumed.

Table 1

1969 Turkey Vulture Count at Red Rock Refuge

August		September				October			
day	no.	day	no.	day	no.	day	no.	day	no.
14	63	1	21	16	82	1	128	13	48
15	1	2	46	17	61	2	32	14	49
16	6	3	70	18	36	3	140	15	3
17	0	4	12	19	97	4	149	16	27
18	1	5	8	20	126	5	200+	17	14
19	6	6	14	21	118	6	192	18	3
20	--	7	67	22	12	7	179	19	14
21	13	8	60	23	116	8	129	20	26
22	7	9	108	24	68	9	156	21	13
23	7	10	28	25	148	10	133	22	5
24	--	11	59	26	128	11	92	23	3
25	8	12	27	27	141	12	--		
26	30	13	65	28	111				
27	2	14	35	29	136				
28	4	15	52	30	166				
29	38								
30	18								
31	70								



Therefore, in Table I, I present the results of observations made from Red Rock Refuge headquarters using 7 X 50 binoculars and 20 X Balscope, three hours daily in late afternoons August 14 through October 23 with 3 days missed.

During August the Turkey Vultures (**Cathartes aura**) roosted in the trees on or at the base of the west slope of Red Rock Bluff (south end of Mile Long Bridge, Highway 14.) After the waters receded to permanent pool level about September 5, the old roost trees on the flood plain just west of Mile Long Bridge were again used, also a second roost about four miles upstream was used. Poor visibility prevented a count at this second roost on many evenings.

A minor fish kill during late September and early October may explain the sustained high count during this period. Flocks spent entire afternoons sunning on sandbars, apparently not needing to fly great distances in search of food.

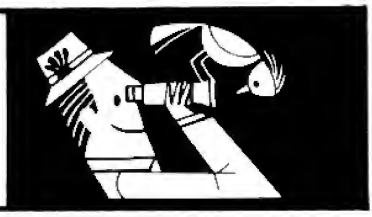
Summary

Dr. James Baird is probably correct in stating that this is mainly a fall "roost." However there appeared to be flocks arriving and departing daily by September 9. The local flock would rise up out of the roost trees and dart at the newcomers resulting in a boiling mass of the big birds over the Bluff. This would continue for an hour or more on some evenings. Professor Hofslund theorized that this is both a roost and a migratory stop-over but that short of a banding operation one could not be positive.

I view the future of this roost with gloom as the high waters lasting from March 20 to September 5 killed all the trees on the flood plain. Also the Con-

servation Commission opened the Roost area to hunting. The latter may be a minor factor as the area has been hunted each fall since pioneer days. The loss of habitat is by far the most serious problem.

FIELD REPORTS



The migration of thrushes, vireos, and warblers was generally thought poor with the most favorable reports coming from Shenandoah. Iowa City had the best luck with shorebirds; the receding waters of the Coralville Resevoir leaving mudflats which were attractive to waders through August and September (see longer note).

Grebes, Pelicans, Herons. Many Pied-billed Grebes were seen at Rock Creek Lake (MS), but there was no mention of the other grebes except for 2 Horned Grebes on 26 October (LS). Three White Pelicans were at Bay's Branch on 14 October (PDK). Great Blue Herons were numerous at Red Rock Refuge with a peak of 100 plus (GB). As many as 12 were seen in Credit Island Harbor in early October (PCP) and there were occasional sightings at several other locations. Little Blue Herons were observed twice in the Shenandoah area; an immature on 5 August (FMB), and on 20 August (number ?) (RZ), while 2 were at Forneys Lake on 19 July (PDK). Common Egrets were missing this fall at Credit Island (PCP) but at least 30 were at Red Rock in September and October (GB).

Swans, Geese, Ducks. A Whistling Swan was observed on 4 October at De Soto Bend (DMH). The goose migration in the Clear Lake area, with 2000 observed was thought the heaviest in years. Most were Blue and Snow (MDK). Red Rock Refuge had 7000 of the three varieties by 21 October (GB). Other areas reported smaller numbers having been seen on various September and October dates. The concentrations of ducks were: at Coralville with 1000 Mallard and teal on 6 September, and 2-3000, mostly divers, on 18 October (FWK), and at Red Rock where 5000 Blue-winged Teal were seen (GB).

Hawks. Most species were thought scarce (MDK,DWK,DG). A large roost at Red Rock had as many as 200 Turkey Vultures (see article), and a good movement of Sharp-shinned was noticed from 11-15 October (GB). On 11 October 2 Red-shouldered were seen at Blue Lake (DMH), while another was observed in Des Moines on 4 October (WmB). Broad-winged were fairly widely distributed, but the only large number reported was near Williamstown on 18 September where 1000 were seen by Bruce Parker (RH). A Swainson's was noted on 14 September (CFW). A few Marsh Hawks, usually seen one at a time, were reported. At Red Rock 3 Golden Eagles were watched killing and eating a crippled or sick Blue Goose, but only 1 immature Bald Eagle was seen (GB). There were a few reports of Ospreys (KV,GB,DMH,WHB). A Peregrine was sighted on 1 and 3 September (GB), and another on 3 October (PDK). Dr. Burk saw a Pigeon Hawk at Beed's Lake on 9 September (RMH).

Bobwhites, Pheasants. Bobwhite were thought not plentiful, but probably as many as usual (DRH), but considered numerous (EAG). Pheasants were: fewer than usual (MDK), not many (DRH), but lots (EAG).

Rails, Shorebirds. A King Rail was at Blue Lake on 14 September (DRH). Virginia Rails were seen: 9 September (DG), and 3 and 5 September (RMH,K-

V,CH). Coots were numerous (MS,GB,MDK). Killdeers were also thought to be abundant (RZ,RMH,GB,DMH). Forty Snipe were seen on 10 September (FWK). There were more Greater Yellowlegs than usual (FWK). Good flocks of Dowitchers were seen: 100 on 7 October (FWK), 36 on 11 October and 150 on 24 October (DMH), and 25-30 on 18 October (RLN). Avocets were seen twice: 3 on 28-19 September (GB), and 2 on 4 October (see photo) (FWK). All waders were scarce (DG), and the migration generally poor due to a scarcity of mudflats in Story Co. (JPR) with a similar situation in Polk Co.

Gulls, Terns. A spectacular migration at Red Rock Refuge with many Herring, Ring-billed and Franklin's, with 1000 of the latter feeding on grasshoppers in a wheat field (GB). From 75-100 Herring Gulls were seen on 25 October (KV). Franklin's were also in good numbers with 200 on 12 October (DMH), and 300 plus following the plow on 22 October (DG). There were more than usual (PK). A Least Tern was seen on 8 August (FMB) while 3 Caspian were seen on 31 August and 1 September and 12 on 15 September (GB).

Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Hummingbirds. Cuckoos were thought abundant (RZ,RMH). An early Short-eared Owl was seen 22 October (DG). Flocks of Nighthawks were observed on 5 September, 200 (RMH) and 150 (GB). A good migration was noticed in Des Moines (JK,CG). Hummingbirds seemed numerous (PK).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers, Swallows. Red-shafted Flickers were seen: in Mills Co. on 7 April, and 24 October in Warren Co. (PDK), and at Hamburg in October. Yellow-shafted Flickers have been scarce (EG). There was a good movement of flickers in Des Moines, while they were plentiful at Mason City (MDK). Sapsuckers were more numerous (LS). On 1 September a large flock of Eastern Kingbirds was seen flycatching over Red Rock Lake (GB). On 10 September a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was observed by Dean Dalzell, Game Mgr. at Sweet's Marsh (RMH). A Phoebe on 17 October was rather late (FWK). Ten were sighted

on 28 September (RMH). Swallows were seen in numbers, the last, mostly Tree and Barn, were on 11 October (FWK). Thousands of all species, including many Cliff, were seen daily from 14 August to 1 September. Barn and Tree predominated for the next ten days (GB). From 7-900, mostly Cliff, were seen on 6 September (KV). Purple Martins seemed fewer (DMH), and were numerous for a few days only (GB).

Nuthatches, Creepers, Wrens. Reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches came from a number of areas but there is no indication of an invasion such as occurred last year. On 25 October the "trees were full of Brown Creepers" (EG). Two pairs of Carolina Wrens (EG) are the only ones reported. Many Long-billed Marsh Wrens were seen (PK).

Thrushes, Kinglets. All reports of Robins mentioned large populations but the migration of others of the family, except bluebirds, appears to have been negligible. Bluebirds were in good numbers (FWK, RMH,MDK). Both species of kinglet were numerous (FWK,CFW,MDK). Ruby-crowned predominated (JR,PC-P,LL), but a wave on 24 October was mainly Golden-crowned (JK).

Vireos, Warblers. Although not a fall item, a White-eyed Vireo seen on 12 May in Lucas Co. is noteworthy (PDK). To judge from reports, there was not noticeable movement of vireos. A few Solitary were seen (DMH,MDK,WHB). There is wide variation in the reports of the warbler migration: very poor (DMH); warblers rarely seen (MDK); and few in September, but a wave on 11-13 October, mostly Myrtles (FWK). Davenport had several waves in September (PCP), while many warblers were banded in both September and October (WdeL). Myrtles were numerous for several days at the end of September (CFW).

Blackbirds, Finches. A flock of about 20 Brewer's Blackbirds was seen on 22 October (DG). The finch and sparrow migration was thought late with the first flocks of White-throats, White-crowned and Juncos appearing on 17 October (FWK). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 29 September was rather late (WdeL). A

Blue Grosbeak was banded in Page Co. on 20 September (DW), and one had been seen in Marion Co. last May (PDK). Pine Siskin reports are: a few (RLN), 35 to 20 October, 200 on 26 October (LS), and a flock of 80-90 (RMH). Crossbills have been a surprise; a White-winged at Ames late in August (JPR-see photo), and 2 other with 22 Red at Nevada (Steve Hanselman, fide JPR). Red Crossbills appeared at Indianola with 8 or 10 on 31 August (DLW) and stayed until 23 October when 14 were seen (PDK). A flock of 200-250 stayed for about 10 days in Estherville early in September (CFW). On 29 October 6 were seen (LS). A number of towhees, included 2 of the spotted race, were banded in October (WdeL). LeConte's Sparrows were seen on 14 and 20 October (PDK), while 24 were netted at Jefferson (JPR). Tree Sparrows have been scarce (RZ,LS), but the Clay-colored was seen on 15 October (RZ). Harris' Sparrows were thought few (WdeL,CFW), but numerous at Blue Lake on 25 October (DMH). White-throated were abundant (RZ) with a good movement (MDK), but very few (CFW). Several Fox Sparrows were two weeks early (PK), but there were none (WdeL). Lincoln's Sparrows were numerous at Shenandoah (RZ,WdeL).

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Mrs. F. M. Braley, Shenandoah; Mrs. W. deLong, Shenandoah; Mrs. E. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Catherine Griffith, Des Moines; Mrs. D. M. Hanna, Sioux City; R. M. Hays, Waterloo; M. D. Keeler, Mason City; F. W. Kent, Iowa City; Jeffrey Kern, Des Moines; P. D. Kline, Indianola; Pearl Knopp, Marble Rock; R. L. Nickolson, Sioux City; P. C. Petersen, Jr., Davenport; J. P. Rod, Ames; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Mildred Stewart, Grinnell; Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex; Mrs. K. Velie, Cedar Falls; C. F. Wolden, Wallingford; D. L. Woods, Indianola, Mrs. Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. Woodward H. Brown, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

GENERAL NOTES

Fall Birding on the Coralville Reservoir 1969 -- Since it's completion in 1958 the Coralville Reservoir flood control project has produced a variety of water levels attractive to water and shore birds, from mud flats to large water areas. In most years high water is in early spring so by May lower levels make for good shore birding. One year a September flood made a large lake of the Refuge area and attracted ducks by the thousands even into December. This year the late record rainfall and flooding of the Iowa River valley required storage of water in the Reservoir reaching full capacity on July 17, some 30 feet above normal level, making a lake some 40 miles up stream as far as the Amanas. So with rising water levels all spring into early summer there were few habitats for shore birds.

Reducing the water level to normal took all summer into late September leaving a succession of shallow pools and mud flats which attracted shore and water birds from early August into early November. As the back roads emerged from the flooding it was possible to reach a number of good places for observations and compile a list of species and numbers, although the mile wide flood plain of the west part of the Reservoir put many areas out of reach except with hipboots. On

A mud flat left by receding water of Reservoir. Note high water line on grove.

Reservoir at Full level. West from No. 218 towards Amana

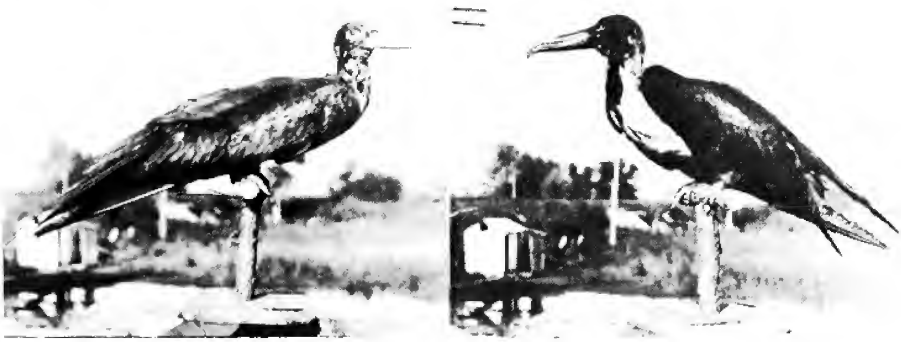
Normal summer level. Level July 17, 1969
"O" & Dupont Bridge across Iowa River in Reservoir area.
Photos by F. W. Kent

August 1 there were numbers of Pectorals, yellowlegs, a few Stilt and Semipalmated Sandpipers, 10 Great Blue Herons, 2 Common Egrets, and couple days later some 150 sandpipers on the flooded lower University golf course. Later in the month Semipalmated Plovers and on August 30 a full plumage Black-bellied Plover. All of September was good for shore birds with more seen on any one trip than for whole of spring season, and the birds followed the receding waters as new areas were exposed. There were more Greater Yellowlegs than usual, some dowitchers, Wilson's Phalaropes, and a peak of 50 Common Snipe on September 10. By the end of September most of the shore birds were gone but on October 7 one pool had some 100 dowitchers, 30 Pectoral Sandpipers and 4 Egrets. Last record of pectorals was on November 8 with 8 birds, and 24 Killdeer on November 8.

Most interesting item of the season was 2 American Avocets on October 4 in winter plumage in a pond along the Dupont bridge road, so close they filled the field in the scope-camera (photo under Field Reports). A couple of noisy motorcycles flushed them but only to the other side of the pond where they began feeding with their characteristic swinging of bills from side to side.

During the season in the Reservoir area a dozen cormorants, coots in numbers, Blue and Snow Geese, ducks in thousand or more, mostly Mallards, with a few of other species. F. W. KENT, 302 Richards St., Iowa City.

Some Notes on an Early Iowa Record and Paul Bartsch--While sorting through the Bartsch collection of photographs given to the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States by his widow I came across the two photographs reproduced below. The specimen photographed is mentioned in Du Mont **The Birds of Iowa**--1934:



Another occurrence, referred to by Anderson, was recorded by Paul Bartsch (**Auk**, XXXIX, pp, 249-250) who stated that on a visit to the Lone Tree Club, near Gladstone, Illinois, on October 10, 1903, he saw a mounted specimen of a Man-o'-war bird. Inquiry revealed that the bird had been found in an exhausted condition on the Iowa bluffs of the Mississippi, immediately south of Burlington, in August of the same year, and although it had been fed, they had succeeded in keeping it alive for a few days only. He believed this to be the first Iowa record for the Man-O'-war-bird (**Fregata magnificens rothschildi**).

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with Dr. Bartsch the following excerpt from the **Atlantic Naturalist** of July-Sep. 1960 by Irston R. Barnes is reprinted:

Dr. Bartsch, curator emeritus of mollusks at the Smithsonian Institution, died in his 89th year. He was the son of Henry and Anna Klein Bartsch, his mother, a physician, being the third woman graduate in obstetrics at the University of Breslau. He was born in Tuentschendorf, Silesia, and came to America in 1882 with

his parents, settling in Iowa.

Paul Bartsch's scientific career encompassed a broad spectrum of interests and activities. He came to the Smithsonian Institution in 1896 and entered into work in the field of mollusks, a then neglected field. Yet in establishing himself as one of the foremost authorities in this field, he did not cease to be a general biologist. In an age of specialists, his broad competence in all phases of biology enabled him to bring together the several disciplines that enabled him to deal with problems in their entirety.

He began his scientific career as a high school lad, entering the State University of Iowa with his own collection of over 1500 birds. As a freshman he prepared his first scientific paper for the Iowa and U. S. Geological Survey, **The Fossil Flora of the Sioux Quartzite.** He received his B.A. in 1896, his M.A. in 1899, and his Ph.D. in 1905. At the hundredth anniversary of the University, he was honored as one of its 100 most distinguished graduates.

As a Smithsonian scientist, he spent many years in explorations in the Pacific and Caribbean areas. The most famous of these was the Philippine Islands Expedition from 1907 to 1909. On these expeditions he collected in all fields of natural history and the Museum's specimen cases include millions of items with his labels. The Museum's monographs and other publications present his formal findings as a foundation for the work of all who follow. His bibliography of more than 500 items tells the story of a mind that took all natural history for its vineyard, observing, recording, speculating and teaching, not only in his chosen field, but in almost every natural history discipline. His retirement from the Museum did not end his serious work; since 1945 he has completed a monumental manuscript of nearly 2000 pages on the **Uroceptidae of Cuba**

His work made many contributions of immediate economic and public health importance. His work on shipworms led to a process for protecting wood immersed in salt water. He treasured a letter of thanks from President Eisenhower for his timely warning of the dangers of parasitic blood flukes to American soldiers entering infested waters. In the first World War he provided the Chemical Warfare Service with a sensitive poison gas detector -- the common garden slug that rolled over in convulsions and protected itself by exuding a creamy fluid in the presence of mustard gas in dilute quantities of 1 part in 12,000; it was not dangerous to man until it reached concentrations of 1 part in 4,000,000.

Dr. Bartsch was never content with one career. In addition to his museum work, he was an outstanding teacher. In 1899, he began teaching histology at the Medical School of Howard University, continuing for 37 years and serving in later years as director of the Histological and Physiological Laboratory. In 1900, he began teaching at George Washington University, introducing botany and biology into the curriculum and starting the school's graduate work in the natural sciences. His hundreds of students have approached life tasks imbued with his high values.

Dr. Bartsch was a pioneer in every field he entered. He was foremost in seeking to make the Museum an educational force, with exhibitions that really taught the public. He was the first to use the arc lamp for projecting living microscopic creatures, eliminating the troublesome shadow by tilting the carbons. He developed his own photographic equipment for early undersea photographs. He was the first in America, after Audubon's one-time try, to band birds, beginning with a local colony of night herons.

Dr. Bartsch was always an active participant in the affairs of the city. He served for many years on the basic science committee of the Medical Licensing

Board. He began his work with the Boy Scouts with the organization of the first Washington troop, served as vice-president of the National Capital Area for many years, and was awarded both the silver beaver and the silver antelope for his contributions to scouting. He had been an officer and director of the Audubon Society for many years, and he had been active in a long list of other scientific, educational and natural history organization. --SHIRLEY BRIGGS, 7605 Honeywell Lane, Bethesda, Maryland.

Cattle Egret Sighted in Plymouth County--Following church services Nov. 8, 1969, Jason Philips, who farms near Akron, Iowa, asked if I would come to his place and identify a strange long legged white bird which had been staying around his farm yard for about a week. When I arrived at the Philips farm Jason was at another farm counting cattle so I looked around on my own and found the bird sitting in a feed rack. I had 7x50 binoculars but was not successful in several attempts to get close enough to accurately check the color of the beak and legs or to see other not too evident identifications points.

About this time Jason returned. He said the bird had been much more easy to approach the first few days after its arrival so we felt it had been ill or injured. The bird was sitting on top of a pile of bales too far distant. I suggested he take a tractor and pull a bale wagon around the yard and approach the bird slowly from one direction while I would slip around behind a cattle shed and try to see the bird in good light. Jason did this with the assistance of his sons Reid and Paul and their guest Lansing Brown. The boys rode the bale rack. This ruse worked nicely. I was able to get close enough to note the yellowish beak, the greenish grey legs and patches of pale buff on the breast and top of the head of this otherwise white bird. I judged the height when standing to be about 16". The buff patches were what I needed to be quite sure that it was a Cattle Egret in non breeding plumage.

The Philips family reported the Egret left a few days later when the weather became much colder. I believe this sighting is a first for Plymouth County. --ELDON BRYANT, R.R. 1, Akron.

Iowa's Walden Pond--Did you know Iowa can boast of its own Walden Pond? Roy Schulz of Castalia, a long time I. O. U. member has turned 220 acres of timber into a fine natural history area. He has built cottages, shelters and trails as well as a series of three ponds in the rolling timbered hills of northeast Iowa three miles from Castalia. The surrounding vicinity has hundreds of additional acres available for birding. Even in winter snowmobiles are available to make the area more accessable. Among the birds of special interest are breeding Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock, Pileated Woodpecker and Scarlet Tanager. The grouse and woodpeckers are present throughout the year. If you are in the northeast Iowa area, just take highway 18 east from Castalia and look for the Walden Pond sign. --ed.

REQUEST FOR GULL REPORTS

During May through July of each year for a five year period, Ring-billed Gulls (**Larus delawarensis**) from three Great Lakes colonies will be wing-marked with 1.5 inch-diameter "Saflag" tags. Each colony is represented by a specific color. An attempt is being made to determine the dispersal pattern, migration route, and winter range for each population. Anyone observing such wing-marked gulls is asked to notify DR. WILLIAM E. SOUTHERN, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115. Please report each observation of marked individuals even though the same bird may be sighted on different days. The following information is desired: **date, exact location, marker color**, and the **observer's name**. Your assistance in this aspect of the project will be

greatly appreciated. Respondents will receive information pertaining to colony locations and the date of marking.

Thanks you, William E. Southern, Associate Professor, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, 60115.

THE RING'S INDEX ORNITHOLOGORUM

The editor of the International Ornithological Bulletin **The Ring** proposes to publish an Index Ornithologorum embracing the professional and amateur ornithologists of the world.

All entries should be in English and should be accompanied by one International Postal Reply Coupon for further correspondence. Closing date for all entries is June 30, 1970, but earlier arrival of entries would be appreciated. Do not delay - send your entry today.

The address is: The Editor, **The Ring**, Laboratory of Ornithology, Sienkiewicza 21, Wroclaw, Poland.

An entry (in English) should contain the following information:

1. Surname
2. Names in full
3. Year of birth (optional)
4. Title
5. Positions held (including editorships, memberships, etc.)
6. Principal interest in ornithology
7. Address
8. Authors of ornithological publications are requested quote the most important of them.
9. Do you intend to purchase a copy of the INDEX if reasonably priced?
10. One I.P.R. Coupon is enclosed: yes no

Signature

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

John Faaborg is again serving as compiler for Iowa Christmas Bird Counts. All 1968 count compilers should have received a form from John for 1969. Dates are Dec. 20 - Jan. 1, the same as for **Audubon Field Notes.** Be sure to have your report in the mail by Jan. 15, 1970 to John Faaborg, 777 Pammel Court, I.S.U., Ames.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

The 1970 Iowa Ornithologist's Union dues, now $4.00 for regular members, is still $5.00 for supporting, $10.00 for contributing, $100.00 for life and $1.00 for junior (under 16) memberships. Please remit to Woodward H. Brown, Treasurer, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50312. Why not order some Iowa checklists at 5 cents, stick-on decals at 50 cents or shoulder patches at $1.00 when you pay your dues. Lets help Mr. Brown by paying dues promptly. -- ed.

NEW MEMBERS

New members for 1969.

Jerry Harper
2826 E. Locust St.
Davenport

Camanche Public Library
102 12th Ave.
Camanche